

**IN THE CLAIMS**

This is a complete and current listing of the claims, marked with status identifiers in parentheses. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A connecting bar arrangement for an electric switch, comprising:

      -aligned connecting bars ~~(20)~~,

~~characterized in that~~

  a localized reduction in ~~the~~ a cross-sectional area of at least one of the connecting bars ~~(20)~~ is being provided for ~~the~~ a localized compression of ~~the~~ lines of force in ~~the~~ a direction of alignment ~~(29)~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The connecting bar arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein

~~— in which end faces (21) of the connecting bars (20) run parallel to the direction of alignment (29), wherein and~~

~~— in which the at least one of the connecting bars (20) is provided with at least one cutout (27), which runs essentially parallel to the end faces (21), for the purpose of deflecting the current, \_~~

~~characterized in that~~

~~— and wherein the at least one cutout (27) extends transversely with respect to the direction of alignment (29) through the entire at least one of the connecting bars (20).~~

3. (Currently Amended) The connecting bar arrangement as claimed in claim 2, wherein

~~characterized in that~~

the at least one cutout (27) is provided in a first, outer ~~(in the direction of alignment (29))~~ region (25) of the at least one of the connecting bars ~~(20)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The connecting bar arrangement as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that wherein a second cutout (28) is provided in a second region ~~(26)~~, which ~~is opposite the first region (25)~~, of the at least one of the connecting bars.

5. (Currently Amended) The connecting bar arrangement as claimed in ~~one of claims 2 to 4~~ 2, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the at least one cutout (27) extends close to the end face ~~(21)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The connecting bar arrangement as claimed in claim 2, wherein one of claims 2 to 5, ~~characterized in that~~ the at least one cutout (27) extends in the direction of alignment ~~(29)~~ essentially over a quarter of the at least one of the connecting bars ~~(20)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) An electric switch ~~(1)~~, ~~in particular a low voltage power breaker having comprising~~ a connecting bar arrangement, ~~characterized in that~~ the connecting bar arrangement is formed as claimed in ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 to 6.

8. (New) The connecting bar arrangement as claimed in claim 2, wherein the at least one cutout is provided in a

first, outer region of the at least one of the connecting bars, in the direction of alignment.

9. (New) The connecting bar arrangement as claimed in claim 8, wherein a second cutout is provided in a second region, which is opposite the first region, of the at least one of the connecting bars.

10. (New) The connecting bar arrangement as claimed in claim 3, wherein the at least one cutout extends close to the end face.

11. (New) The connecting bar arrangement as claimed in claim 4, wherein the at least one cutout extends close to the end face.

12. (New) The connecting bar arrangement as claimed in claim 8, wherein the at least one cutout extends close to the end face.

13. (New) The connecting bar arrangement as claimed in claim 9, wherein the at least one cutout extends close to the end face.

14. (New) A low-voltage power circuit breaker comprising a connecting bar arrangement formed as claimed in claim 1.

15. (New) An electric switch, comprising a connecting bar arrangement formed as claimed in claim 2.

16. (New) A low-voltage power circuit breaker comprising a connecting bar arrangement formed as claimed in claim 2.